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			R TO THE UNITED STATES	EPRNT-101XX				
			ED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)	U.S. APPLICATION NO (II known, see 37 CFR 1 5)				
			NG UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371	09/529587				
		ATIONAL APPLICATION NO	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED				
		US98/21955	16 October 1998	16 October 1997				
	TITLE OF INVENTION NETWORKED COMPUTER SYSTEM FOR VIEWING AND ORDERING PRINTS OF PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN AT AN EVENT							
	APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US John A. Dane and Michael Dane							
	_		s Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the follow	ving items and other information:				
		1. X This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.						
		2. This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.						
	3. 区 4. 区	 This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1). X proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date. 						
	5. X		ication as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))	at nom the states states of priority date.				
			(required only if not transmitted by the Interna	tional Bureau).				
ı		b. X has been transmitted by	the International Bureau.					
	. —	c. is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).						
	6.	A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).						
William I	7. X		International Application under PCT Article					
		a. are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).						
		 b. have been transmitted by the International Bureau. c. have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired. 						
			nents has NOT expired.					
G No.	8 🗆	d. X have not been made and will not be made. 8. A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).						
2	9. X datistation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)). 9. X datistation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).							
	<u></u>							
	(35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).							
	Items 11. to 16. below concern document(s) or information included:							
	11. X An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.							
	12.	2. An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.						
1	13. X	A FIRST preliminary amendment						
		A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT p	reliminary amendment.					
1	14.	A substitute specification.						
- 1	15. A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.							
	16. 🛣	Other items or information: Ver	ified Statement Claiming Smal	ll Entity Status				
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page 1 of 2

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nor internation	L FEE (37 CI tional prelimin al search fee (3	R 1.492 (a) ary examina 7 CFR 1 444	(1) - (5)) : tion fee (37 CFR 1.482) 5(a)(2)) paid to USPTO red by the EPO or JPO	\$ 970.00	9.		·
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Sheet 1 of 3

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT:

John & Dane et al.

ATTORNEY

DOCKET NO.: EPRNT-101XX

APPLICATION NO. :

EXAMINER:

FILED:

HEREWITH

GROUP NO. :

PATENT NO. 1

ISSUED:

ENTITLED: NETWORKED COMPUTER SYSTEM FOR VIEWING AND ORDERING PRINTS OF

PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN AT AN EVENT

VERIFIED STATEMENT AS SMALL ENTITY

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

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THE UNDERSIGNED DECLARE(S):

Exclusive rights in the above-identified invention reside in the 'small entity(ies)' defined and named below or in a Verified Statement as Small Entity filed by other such small entity(ies), and "small entity" fees are appropriate. Qualification as a small entity is based supposed the appropriately checked statements below:

[X] INDEPENDENT INVENTOR (S)

The below-signing independent inventor(s) has (have) not assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed, and is (are) under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license any rights in the invention to any person who could not likewise be classified as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

[] MALL BUSINESS CONCERN

The below-identified small business concern qualifies as a small business as defined in 13 CFR 121.1301 through 121.1305, and reproduced in 37 CFR 1.9(d), for purposes of paying reduced fees under Section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, in that the number of employees, including those of its affiliates, which does not exceed 500 persons, and it has not assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed, and is under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license, any rights in the invention to any person who could not be classified as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

Express Mail Number

<u>EM259610489US</u>

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Concerns are affiliates of each other when, either directly or indirectly, one concern controls or has the power to control the other, or a third party controls or has the power to control both. The number of employees of the business concern is the average over the fiscal year of the persons employed during each of the pay periods of the fiscal year. Employees are those persons employed on a full-time, part-time or temporary basis during the previous fiscal year of the concern.

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION (Check additional applicable box.)

The below-identified nonprofit organization qualifies as a small entity under 37 CFR 1.9(a) in that it constitutes:

- [] a university or other institution of higher education located in any country; or
- an organization of the type described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (26 USC 501(c)(3)) and exempt from taxation under Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (26 USC 501(a)); or
 - any nonprofit scientific or educational organization qualified under a nonprofit organization statute of a state of the United States (35 USC 201(i)); or
- 14. any nonprofit organization located in a foreign country which would qualify as a Ū nonprofit organization under paragraphs (e)(2) or (3) of Rule 1.9 if it were located in the United States.

The undersigned acknowledge(s) the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate (37 CFR 1.28(b)).

The helmostoning indicates 14-1

execute this statement on behalf of the small entity.	she, they) are authorized to
Name of Small Entity: (Independent Inventor/Small Business/Nonp	rofit)
John A. Dane	
Address of Small Entity: (Street, City, State or Country, Zip C	ode)
51 Wilcox Avenue, Pawtucket, Rhode Island 02860	
Name of Person Signing: (Small Business/Nonprofit)	
Title of Person Signing: (Small Business/Nonprofit)	
Signature: (Please sign and date in permanent ink.)	Date signed:
	x 4/11/00

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Sheet 3 of 3

Attorney Docket Mo.: EPRNT-101XX

Name of Small Entity: (Second Joint Independent Inventor) Michael Dane	
Address of Small Entity: (Street, City, State or Country, Zip C 39 John Brook Road, Canterbury, Connecticut 06331	code)
Signature: (Please sign and date in permanent ink.)	x 4/11/00

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09/529587 416 Rec'd PCT/PTO 1 4 APR 2000

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application John A. Dane et al.

Application No.

Filed

Herewith

For NETWORKED COMPUTER SYSTEM FOR VIEWING AND ORDERING PRINTS OF PHOTGRAPHS TAKEN

AT AN EVENT

Examiner

Attorney's Docket EPRINT-101XX

Group Art Unit:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Rostal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Washington, D.C. 20231 on _

Registration No.

Attorney for Applicant(s)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

BOX PCT Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Kindly enter the following Preliminary Amendment in the above-identified application which is the U.S. national phase entry of PCT/US98/21955 filed October 16, 1998.

Please substitute for the drawings in published application no. PCT/US98/21955 the enclosed formal drawings sheets 1-27, figs 1-34, which were filed with the Demand and included with

Express Mail Number

_EM259610489

WEINGARTEN, SCHURGIN, GAGNEBIN & HAYES, LLP TEL. (617) 542-2290 FAX. (617) 451-0313

Attorney Docket No.: EPRNT-101XX

Filed: Herewith

Group Art Unit:

the International Preliminary Examination Report of Application No. PCT/US98/21955.

REMARKS

The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney to discuss any matter which would expedite allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN A. DANE ET

Charles L. Magnebin III Registration No. 25,467 Attorney for Applicants

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CLG/ljg/223921

PTO/PCT Rec'd 14 APR 2000

19/529567 PCT/US98/21955

Networked Computer System for Viewing and Ordering Prints of Photographs Taken at an Event

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CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

Priority is claimed to U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/062,075, Filed October 16, 1997, Entitled "Networked Computer System for Viewing and Ordering Prints of Photographs Taken at an Event" and incorporated herein by reference.

STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT

N/A.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Professional photographers often take photographs at significant events, such as weddings, graduations, athletic contests, parties or other gatherings, with the intention of selling prints and other merchandise based on those photographs to the event's participants and to others interested in the proceedings. Typically, the purchase of the photographs involves a series of logistical and financial engagements in which the buyer views the photographs, chooses a subset of them and elects various sizes, finishes, formats, styles and materials for the prints and other merchandise.

These engagements are often complicated by the fact that by the time they occur, many of the event's participants have gone home to geographically dispersed locales. Low-quality prints, or "proofs," of some or all of the photographs are often created for consideration by potential buyers. Sets of these proofs are shipped to the prospects, along with the forms and instructions needed to place orders with and remit payment to the photographer. These forms and instructions are often complex, requiring the buyer to specify the desired photographs along with the desired print sizes, or other

merchandise preferences, and calculate the resulting price. If there are a number of buyers in distant locales, the proof set must be sent to each in succession, or multiple proof sets must be created. The time, expense and inconvenience of these processes impedes the professional photographer's efforts to profit from the sale of his photographs and the buyer's efforts to obtain mementos of important events.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

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The present invention provides a system which allows for transferral of photographic images from a number photographers to a typically website based photographic repository order server, remote electronic review such as over the Internet by customers of the images stored thereby, election of final print orders through such an electronic interface, and exchange of payment from the customer to the photographer, thereby allowing shipment of the order without necessitating a meeting to peruse the full proof set, select print options, or transact payment. This system comprises a server or system of servers, typically connected to the Internet and configured for communication via the World Wide Web and other Internet protocols, which performs or supports a number of functions, including the following: transferal of photographic images from a number of photographers to the automated processing of the images system, preparation for display, editing and sequencing of images in preparation for display, display of particular sets of images to the appropriate groups of event participants, ordering of prints or other merchandise based on the images by event participants, collection of payment for those prints, forwarding of print order information to photographers or other parties responsible for fulfilling the orders, and calculation of payments due the photographer and the owner or operator of the system. It also provides services that notifying event participants of the aid availability of the images and informing them of the times and procedures for viewing them. By performing these

functions and services, the system acts as a specialized and integrated network application making it possible to sell event photos without necessitating a meeting to review the images or the circulation of traditional proofs.

Users interact with the system through a graphical user interface, which is typically accessed remotely through standard World Wide Web browsing client software conversant in languages such as HTML, JAVA, XML, and further capable of recognizing images in such protocols as JPEG and JIF. Different subsets of this interface are available to different classes of users, including photographers, event hosts, couples, and guests, so that each has an appropriate level of control over the system functions to assure security.

Initially, a photographer opens an account and a password is issued that lets the photographer access a set of interfaces through which he can enter information about each event, including separate logins for the event's hosts and guests. While creating this initial event profile, the photographer may order promotional materials, such as cards imprinted with access instructions and the guest login, which the system prints out for distribution at the event. the photographer completes the profile, the system creates a coming soon interface where guests and hosts who visit the site before the images are available can leave their e-mail addresses so the system can notify them when the pictures are ready to be viewed. The photographer's subset of the interface also provides access to editing functions that enable him to select and arrange the photos and otherwise prepare them for presentation to event participants, and to account administration functions, which provide him with information about his account, including fees incurred, merchandise ordered and the balance of his account.

Event hosts typically have access to a subset of the interface that provides editing, arranging and presentation control capabilities similar to those provided the photographer. Hosts also have access to image viewing and

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print ordering functions.

Guests typically have access to a more limited range of the interface, including primarily the image viewing and print ordering functions. All classes of users typically have access to an online bulletin board, or guestbook, which enables them to post messages viewable by all other users.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING

The present invention will be more fully understood by reference to the following detailed description and drawings, of which:

- Fig. 1 is a context diagram of the photograph of the photograph viewing and ordering system as defined by the present invention;
 - Fig. 2 is a block diagram of the system of Fig. 1;
- Fig. 3 is a flowchart of the method used to effect viewing and ordering of photographs as defined herein;
- Fig. 4 shows the menu structure of the user interface as defined by the present invention;
 - Fig. 5 shows the photographer's image entry interface;
 - Fig. 6 shows the upload picture images interface;
 - Fig. 7 shows the price list entry interface;
 - Fig. 8 shows the scanning interface;
 - Fig. 9 shows the file transmission interface;
 - Fig. 10 shows the physical media transmission interface;
 - Fig. 11 shows the direct Internet upload interface;
 - Fig. 12 shows the e-mail attachment interface;
- Fig. 13 shows the event profile entry interface for wedding-type events;
- Fig. 14 shows the event profile entry interface for non-wedding events;
 - Fig. 15 shows the create categories entry interface;
 - Fig. 16a shows the categorize images interface;
 - Figs. 16b-16c show the image sequencing interface;
 - Figs. 17a-17b show the captioning interface;
 - Figs. 18a-18c show the order selection interface;
 - Fig. 19 shows the review order interface;

Fig. 20 shows the personal proofbook selection interface;

Fig. 21 shows the order checkout interface;

Fig. 22 shows the billing interface;

Fig. 23 shows the photographer login interface;

Fig. 24 shows the coming soon interface;

Fig. 25 shows the E-Prints™ handout card;

Fig. 26 shows the select photo collection interface;

Fig. 27 shows the select event profile interface;

Figs. 28a-28b show the review album interface;

Fig. 29 shows the editing options interface;

Fig. 30 shows the event summary interface;

Fig. 31 shows the search interface;

Fig. 32 shows the search results interface;

Fig. 33 shows the guestbook interface; and

Fig. 34 shows the add message interface.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Fig. 1 illustrates the context of the system encompassed by the present invention. The $E\text{-Prints}^{\mathsf{IM}}$ server 10 stores digital images of photographs taken by photographers 16 at an Event 14, and makes them available for interactive viewing by guests 18 and host 12. Guests 18 and host 12 may order merchandise associated with those images by interacting with the $E\text{-Prints}^{\mathsf{IM}}$ server.

Fig. 2, illustrates the components of the system encompassed by the present invention, and the network links and relationships between those components. A photographer 16 who has taken photographs at a an event, such as a wedding, graduation, sporting event, or portrait sitting, may transmit the photographs to the E-Prints™ server 10 by one of several methods and in one of several formats: digital versions of the photographs, created by a photographer 16 or a photofinishing lab 20, may be sent to the E-Prints™ server as digital files via communications links 19, 32, or loaded onto physical media 22, 23 and shipped to an E-Prints™ operator 29 for processing and

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transmission to the E-Prints™ server 10 via communications link 31.

the E-Prints™ by server received processed, with input from the photographer 16, and made available for viewing and manipulation via the Internet 24 by the host 12 and quests 18, who may place orders for photographic prints or other image-related merchandise by interacting with the E-Prints™ server 10. information relating to orders so placed is exchanged by the E-Prints™ server 10 and financial institution communications link 28. Fulfillment of orders so placed may take place in one of several ways: orders may be transmitted to the photographer 16 for fulfillment; orders may be transmitted to photofinishing Lab 20 for fulfillment; and orders may be transmitted by communications link 31 to E-Prints™ printing and shipping facility 30 for fulfillment.

The process by which a photographer, guests and hosts interact with the system is detailed below, with references to figures showing the graphical user interface (GUI) through which the system's functions are accessed. Interaction with this GUI typically takes place via the Internet, using standard World Wide Web browser client software. simplified flowchart of a typical order sequence as effected by the present invention is depicted in Fig. photographer shoots a set of pictures at an event 300. A lab processes the film 302 so that the photography studio or photographer may select images for proofs 304. Electronic versions of these proofs are shipped or electronically transmitted to the order server 306 for creation of an electronic proofbook 308. Interactive access to this electronic proofbook allows users and guests to select images for physical prints 310. Monetary information is exchanged 312 to allow payment for prints, and the studio fills and ships the order to the customer 314.

A series of graphical user interface (GUI) screens are utilized in the above embodiment to effect a transaction. Referring to Fig. 4, the menu selection screen structure is

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summarized. Using a standard browser 104 for access to a public network such as the Internet allows photographers and customers (host and guests) to access the respective parts of the order server interface. Following is a description of the traversal of the user interface as it would occur in the flowchart of Fig. 3.

As shown in Fig. 5, The photographer interface 105 allows a photographer to specify an event 113, 114, upload a photograph image file 106, or set a price list 107 for various sizes of finished prints (Fig. 7). Upload file 106 is selected to allow entry and transmission of new images from an event.

To use the E-Prints $^{\text{M}}$ system, a photographer establishes an account by entering information in a GUI form, and indicating agreement to the terms of the business relationship between the operator of the E-Prints $^{\text{M}}$ system and the photographer.

Creation of the new account is acknowledged by an e-mail message to the photographer, containing a unique account identification and access code enabling the photographer to identify him or herself to the E-Prints $^{\text{m}}$ system, and gain access to its functions via a login screen (Fig 23).

The photographer creates one or more price lists containing descriptions, product codes and prices for photographic prints or other merchandise to be sold via E-Prints^M by entering information into a GUI form (Fig. 7). The photographer may also create sale packages. Each package consists of a description, a fixed, total price and a specified number of each of several different types of photographic prints or merchandise. These price lists and sale packages are retained by the system for use with image collections submitted by the same photographer, who may access the price lists and sale packages and make changes to them using the account administration interface 105.

The photographer next creates an event profile by entering information into the appropriate GUI form for the type of event (Figs. 13, 14). The event profile includes

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such information as the name of the event, or photographic subjects, the date the event is to take place and the price list and/or packages to be used by host or guests when ordering merchandise associated with the event. When the event profile is submitted to the E-Prints server, a coming soon interface (Fig. 24) is created for the event, as described below. The photographer may also order handout cards (Fig. 25) as described below.

The wedding couple may choose the style of their online album, and enter information for their wedding announcement, including place, time and travel directions. They may also select optional services including RSVP, which enables guests to RSVP using the E-Prints™ system, and registry, which enables guests to see where the couple is registered for gifts, through Internet and traditional services. These optional services are accessible via the coming soon interface (Fig. 24).

Handout cards (Fig. 25) may be prepared to aid in dissemination of the password and other access information to the event participants. These cards may be prepared by the operator of the E-Prints™ system, the event organizer or the photographer. If they are to be prepared by the of the E-Prints™ system, the photographer or event organizer (Host) may access a GUI order form on the E-Prints™ system for that purpose. The photographer may order handout cards at the time of creating an Event Profile Fig. 13, 14. The handout cards are distributed to guests and participants by the photographer or event organizer at the event.

The photographer then photographs the event, using a film, digital or other electronic camera. Guests, host, or other event participants in possession of the access information for an event may access the coming soon interface (Fig. 24) and submit their names and e-mail addresses so that they may be notified by e-mail when the pictures are ready for interactive viewing and ordering via the E-Prints $^{\text{M}}$ system.

Fig. 6 shows the scanning screen, which allows scanning

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of physical prints into a transmittible electronic form on the photographer's studio computer system through and the scan interface 108 (Fig. 8). Alternatively, such images could be directly transferred from a digital camera or from a photofinishing lab. Next, the electronic images must be sent to the order server using transmit screen 109. Transmit screen 109 allows the photographer to select which mode of communication to use to send the electronic images. Direct Internet or modem connection 111 (Fig. 11), E-mail attachment 112 (Fig. 12), or physical shipment of optical or magnetic media 110 (Fig. 10) may be used.

Digital versions of the photographs taken at the event are transmitted to the E-Prints™ system by one of several methods. Referring to Fig. 2, the photographer 16 may take the photographs using a digital camera, and upload the digital images to the E-Prints™ server via communications Alternatively, the photographer 16 takes the photographs using a digital camera, loads the images onto physical storage media 22, 23 (optical disk, magnetic disk, or other non-volatile media) and ships the media to an E-Prints™ operator 29. The E-Prints operator extracts the digital images from the media and transmits them via communications link 31 to the E-Prints™ server 10. another option, the photographer takes the photographs using a film camera and sends the film to a photofinishing lab 20. The lab creates digital versions of the images. The digital images may be sent to the $E\text{-Prints}^{\mathsf{m}}$ server 10 directly, via communications link 32, or via the photographer and communications link 19. The photofinishing lab may also load the images onto physical storage media and ship the media to an $E\text{-Prints}^{\mathbf{m}}$ operator 29 directly, or via the photographer 16. As a further option, the photographer takes the photographs using a film camera and sends the film to a photofinishing lab 20, which returns developed film and photographic proofs. The photographer creates digital versions of the images from the film or proofs, and either uploads them to the E-Prints server 10 via communications

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link 19, or ships them to an E-Prints™ operator 29 on physical media. Once the electronic image file of the event is uploaded, the photographer creates an association between the images and an event data profile previously entered for either a wedding 113 (Fig. 13) or non-wedding 114 (Fig. 14) event. This association is established through the select profile screen 119 (Fig. 27). The images in the profile must then be arranged either by the photographer or host through the functions on the editing options screen 115 (Fig. 29).

Before this can occur, the system must prepare the The E-Prints™ system processes the images into the appropriate size and format for display. This may require intervention by an E-Prints™ operator, depending on the nature of the images. The collection of images for a specific event are then made accessible to the photographer in the select photo collection interface Fig. 26. A stepwise tutorial aspect of the interface can guide new users sequentially through the process. First, general category names through which to group the pictures are entered by name via create categories screen 116 (Fig. 15). Pictures are then arranged into these categories by categorize pictures screen 117a, picture sequence screen 117b, and set sequence screen 417c (Figs. 16a-16c). A user selects the order to arrange the pictures by clicking on the check box 214 beside the image to be placed. Next, the user clicks the place images button 216 under the position which the picture should appear. Individual captions for pictures may be selected, entered, and changed through captioning menu 118a and captioning screen 118b (Figs. 17a-17b). Text can be entered in image specific caption boxes 218, or a common caption for all images on the displayed page can be entered in common caption box 220. Once sequenced and captioned by the photographer, an online proofbook 308 corresponding to the event has been generated for perusal by the host 12 and quests 18.

To illustrate the editing and customization steps more clearly, the photographer logs onto the E-Prints™ system via

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the login page (Fig. 23), and uses a series of GUIs to configure the collection of photographs for viewing as described below.

The select photo collection interface Fig. 26 is used by the photographer to select one of the collections of photographs 281 associated with his or her account.

The photographer then uses the select event profile interface Fig. 27 to select the correct event profile from 291 of event profiles submitted by photographer. To facilitate the selection, event profiles may be reviewed in the event profile review Page 292. photographer then uses the create categories interface Fig. 15 to divide the photographs into named categories. photographer may select from suggested categories, create his or her own categories, or select "Automatic" to have numbered categories created automatically by the E-Prints™ system. The photographer then uses the categorize pictures interface (Fig. 16a) to assign each picture to one of the created categories. Pulldown menus beneath each picture 172 contain the names of the categories created above, and a "Delete" To facilitate categorization, there is the option of assigning all pictures on each screen to a single category by making a single selection in the select all menu 171. Images for which the delete option is selected are placed in a "deleted images" category, and may be restored to the event at any time prior to the event being published (see below). photographer may also change the orientation of photographs in 90 degree increments using controls in the categorize pictures interface Fig 16a. sequencing interface Fig. 16b shows the photographer the created categories, and the number of images assigned to each. An autosequence button 217b is provided, which causes the E-Prints™ system to automatically sequence the images in within each category in simple alphanumeric order. option is provided for photographers who do not wish to exert control over the image sequence within categories. Clicking on a category 117b provides access to the set sequence

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interface Fig. 16c for the selected category. At this interface, the photographer may set the desired sequence in which the images in the selected category will appear when viewed by guests or host. To place an image in the sequence, the photographer clicks the checkbox beneath the desired image in the selection pane 117c, which shows all images in the category, then click the place image button 217c beneath the desired position in the sequence pane 317c. sequencing is complete, or automatic sequencing has been elected, the photographer may add captions to some or all of the images using the captioning interface Fig. 17a-17b. Using the captioning menu Fig. 17a, the photographer may select a page of images to caption from the list of available pages 118a, or elect not to caption images by selecting the no captions button 218a. If a page is selected from the list 118a, the photographer may use the set captions interface Fig. 17b to enter captions for one or more images on that page by entering the captions in the space provided beneath each picture 118b. Captions may be indexed for use as the basis for a secondary search, so that a host or guest may find a particular image within a proofbook by conducting such a search for specific caption text. For example, the photographer may caption each photo in a college graduation with the name of the student, enabling hosts and guests to find the single student's image they wish to view within the online proofbook for the graduation. Using the review album interface (Figs. 28a, 28b), the photographer may review the photographs to confirm that the above categorization, sequencing, orientation and profile selection have been properly performed. The editing options interface Fig. 29 may be used to return to the specified function and make such changes. The event summary interface Fig. 30 provides the photographer with information on the collection of images to be published, and on the charges that will be made to his or her account. Selecting the confirm button 132 accepts the charges, and publishes the collection of images, making it available for viewing on the E-Prints™ system by

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the event host, and guests in possession of correct access information. The photographer may select from several options governing the availability of the collection of images, as enumerated below: i.) the images are immediately accessible to host and guests in possession of correct access information. ii.) the images are available only to hosts for a period of time specified by the photographer, after which they are made available to hosts and guests in possession of correct access information. iii.) the images are available to the host only. If this last option is chosen, the host may make the images available to guests.

A host 12 or guest 18 may then access the online proofbook at the order server 10 by performing a search using a search interface (Fig. 31), then selecting the desired event from the list returned in the search result 134 (Fig. 32). Upon making their selection, they are prompted for access information, unless the photographer specified that the proofbook have no access restrictions, as provided for in the event profile entry interface shown in Figs. 13 & 14. A host, or guest, in addition to ordering prints, may also enter messages to guests. Once granted password access, the purchaser (host or guest) may view images of the photographs, purchase merchandise, and access the quest book. guest book interface (Fig. 33), they may read messages 135 left by others visiting that proofbook, and use the add message interface (Fig. 34) to leave a message. images of the photographs, and purchase merchandise, the purchaser selects a page 204 (Fig. 18a) of proofs to view, as arranged in categories 117b and sequenced 117c by the photographer and/or the host. A page 120b of images is then displayed to the user (Fig. 18b), and can be selected by clicking on the desired image. Selected images 206 can also be entered into a personal online proofbook for subsequent viewing and/or purchase. Once selected for purchase, the print selection screen 120c (Fig. 18c) is displayed for selection of print size and quantity. Checkout screen 121 (Fig. 19) may be accessed at any time to review or complete

the order. Quantity 208 may also be modified by the checkout screen 121. Following the checkout screen are shipping 123 and billing 124 screens (Figs. 21 and 22, respectively), to allow postal address 210 and credit card information 212 to be entered. Customers may save and access their personal proofbook at 122 for subsequent access or to compile a finished album over time. In this manner, all customers of an event need not arrange a face to face meeting with a photographer, and may elect any number of prints from the displayed proofs at any time during the period the proofbook is available on the order server.

The following is a review in summary of the viewing and ordering sequence. Upon publishing of the event, described above, an email message is sent to each individual who used the coming soon interface (Fig. 24). message contains a notification that the collection of images is available for viewing and ordering, and the necessary access information. Upon selecting the desired event's title from the list returned by the E-Prints™ server, the user is prompted to enter the access information provided in the handout cards Fig. 25. This information is also provided in the notification email, and may be disseminated by the photographer or event organizer by various means. entering the access information, the user is presented with an interface (Fig. 18a) for interactively viewing the images, and ordering associated merchandise. On this interface are listed the categories created by the photographer at Fig. 15, with pages of images that may selected for viewing. Access is also provided to the guestbook interface (Figs. 33 and 34) where the user may leave text messages and read those left by others.

Optional viewing and editing privileges may also be established. The photographer my elect to make the collection of images available for viewing and editing by a subset of users who are provided privileged access information (hosts). Examples of such hosts are: the wedding couple, in the case of a wedding; the event organizer, in the

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case of a reunion or convention. Hosts typically have access to image categorizing, captioning, and sequencing capabilities similar to those made available to the photographer as described above.

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To initiate viewing of the photographs and ordering merchandise a host or guest (users) may access the images associated with a particular event, and order photographic prints and other merchandise, by interacting with the E-Prints™ server using a series of GUI screens. A search interface (Fig. 31) is provided to enable the user to access the collection of images by entering information associated with the event, for example, the name of the bride or groom in the case of a wedding, and performing a search. Selecting a page for viewing presents the user with an interface (Fig. 18b) providing images of photographs taken at the event, and controls for functions, including: viewing additional pages of images, viewing merchandise compiled for ordering, placing the compiled order, or viewing a larger version of a selected image, together with ordering information and controls for adding merchandise to their order (Fig. 18c). photographer has specified package pricing, the user may select a package, and will then be prompted as to product selections remaining to be made to complete the package. The user may view a larger version of a selected photograph, and specify merchandise to be added to his or her order using a provided interface (Fig. 18c) accessible by selecting one of the pictures presented on an album page (Fig. 18b). The user may specify images to be added to his or her personal album, a subset of the images in the collection, which he or she may annotate with a title and text message, and make available to other users for viewing. The contents of a user's order may be reviewed and changed at any time prior to placement of the compiled order by accessing the review order interface The user may complete and place the compiled order using the checkout interface (Fig. 21). This interface for the collection of shipping and billing information necessary to process the order. Upon submission

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of this information, the user is prompted to enter credit card or other payment information, to acknowledge text explaining that the $E\text{-Prints}^{\mathsf{m}}$ operator is limited in its ability to guarantee the delivery and quality of products produced by third parties, and then to authorize payment.

The E-Prints™ system responds to the request to process the order with an e-mail confirming the contents of the order and that the order has been received by E-Prints™. E-Prints™ system then charges the customer's credit card. If the charge is approved, the system e-mails order information to the photographer, and more less simultaneously, generates a paper copy of the order to be sent to the photographer by postal mail and also sends an e-mail to the customer notifying him that the order has been forwarded to the photographer, and giving him an estimated delivery time and the information he needs to contact the photographer in case there are problems with the order. the customer has not submitted an e-mail address with the order, or if the e-mail is bounced back as undeliverable, this information is printed out to be sent by postal mail.

If the order credit card charge is declined, an e-mail requesting corrected payment information is sent to the customer and the order is queued to a human operator. Optionally, an interface may be provided that lets the photographer check off orders upon fulfillment. This helps the photographer keep track of completed orders, and enables E-Prints[™] to monitor fulfillment patterns. The photographer may access orders placed through his or her online proofbooks in the orders interface 105a. This interface provides a listing of each customer's itemized order. Images ordered may be selected, and cropping information may be added for each image for use in creation of photographic prints to fulfill the order.

It will be appreciated that the system or any part of it as described herein may be operated (designated herein as an $E\text{-Prints}^{\text{IM}}$ operator) by a licensed entity at remote locations.

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Various extensions and modifications to the above invention may be apparent to those skilled in the art. Accordingly, the present invention is not intended to be limited except as by the spirit and scope of the following claims.

CLAIMS

1. A computer method for storing and saving electronic photographic images comprising:

providing access to an order server having picture image memory adapted to store said electronic photographic images, an ordering interface, and a communications link;

providing access to an image loader operable to receive said electronic photographic images and store said images in said picture image memory;

providing access to a photographic printer adapted to produce hardcopy renditions of said electronic photographic images;

providing access to a payment verifier adapted to transact remote payment information through a financial institution,

wherein said ordering interface is operable to be remotely accessed by a user for the purpose of selectively directing said photographic printer to produce said hardcopy renditions.

- 2. The computer method of claim 1 wherein said ordering interface access providing step further comprises providing access to an image profiler adapted to sequence and label said electronic photographic images.
- 3. The computer method of claim 1 wherein said ordering interface access providing step further comprises providing access to a customer order selector adapted to enumerate and quantify a subset of said electronic photographic images to be produced as said hardcopy renditions.
- 4. The computer method of claim 1 wherein said ordering interface access providing step further comprises providing access to a customer proofbook adapted to store a subset of said electronic photographic images, wherein said customer proofbook persists between said remote accesses by said customer.

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- 5. The computer method of claim 1 wherein said payment verifier access providing step enables transmitting payment corresponding to production of said hardcopy renditions in response to notification from said financial institution.
- 6. The computer method of claim 1 wherein said image loader access providing step enables receiving said electronic photographic images from a transmission over a publically accessible network through said communications link.

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- 7. The computer method of claim 1 wherein said image loader access providing step enables receiving said electronic photographic images from a non-volatile digital media.
- 8. The computer method of claim 7 wherein said non-volatile digital media is selected from the group consisting of magnetic and optical formats.
- 9. A method of remotely uploading, storing, reviewing, and editing electronic photographic images comprising:

fixing visual images on a persistent medium;

translating said visual images into electronic photographic images;

transmitting said electronic photographic images to an order server;

storing said electronic photographic images on a memory at said order server;

displaying selected electronic photographic images from said memory to a remote customer;

receiving an order from said remote customer enumerating a subset of said electronic photographic images;

producing a hardcopy rendition of said subset of electronic photographic images.

10. The method as in claim 9 wherein said translating comprises scanning a visual image into a digital storage format.

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- 11. The method as in claim 9 wherein said fixing comprises using a digital camera to store said visual images therein.
- 12. The method as in claim 9 wherein said displaying to said remote customer and said receiving said order comprises a transmission over a publically accessible network.
- 13. The method as in claim 9 wherein the step of storing is followed by the step of sequencing and captioning said electronic photographic images.
- 14. The method as in claim 12 wherein said displaying is in response to interactive selecting by said customer through said publicly accessible network.
- 15. The method as in claim 9 wherein said storing further comprises arranging said electronic photographic images according to an event and said displaying said electronic photographic images occurs selectively according to said event.
- 16. The method as in claim 9 wherein said displaying is followed by the step of electing a quantitative and qualitative assertion for at least one of said electronic photographic images.
- 17. The method as in claim 16 wherein said electing further comprises storing at least one of said electronic photographic images in an electronic proofbook.
- 18. The method as in claim 17 wherein said electronic proofbook is accessible only by said customer.
- 19. The method as in claim 9 wherein said receiving said order comprises a qualitative and quantitative election with respect to each of said electronic photographic images of said subset.

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20. The method as in claim 9 wherein said storing is preceded by the step of remotely altering said electronic photographic images.

21. A computer method for storing and saving electronic photographic images comprising:

means for providing access to an order server having picture image memory adapted to store said electronic photographic images, an ordering interface, and a communications link;

means for providing access to an image loader operable to receive said electronic photographic images and store said images in said picture image memory;

means for providing access to a photographic printer adapted to produce hardcopy renditions of said electronic photographic images;

means for providing an access to a payment verifier adapted to transact remote payment information through a financial institution.

wherein said ordering interface is operable to be remotely accessed by a user for the purpose of selectively directing said photographic printer to produce said hardcopy renditions.

- 22. The computer method of claim 21 wherein said ordering interface access providing means comprises means for further providing access to an image profiler adapted to sequence and label said electronic photographic images.
- 23. The computer method of claim 21 wherein said ordering interface access providing means further comprises means for providing access to a customer order selector adapted to enumerate and quantify a subset of said electronic photographic images to be produced as said hardcopy renditions.
- 24. The computer method of claim 21 wherein said ordering

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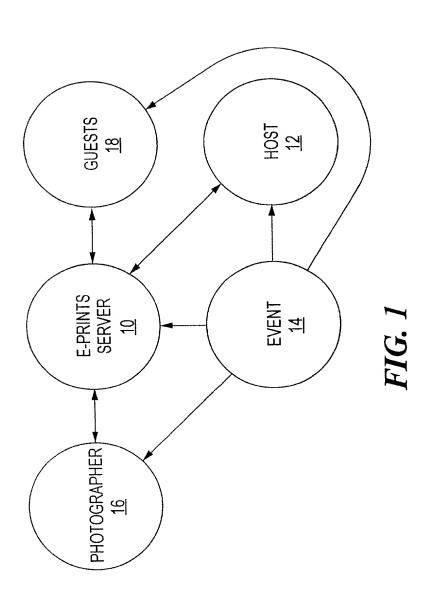
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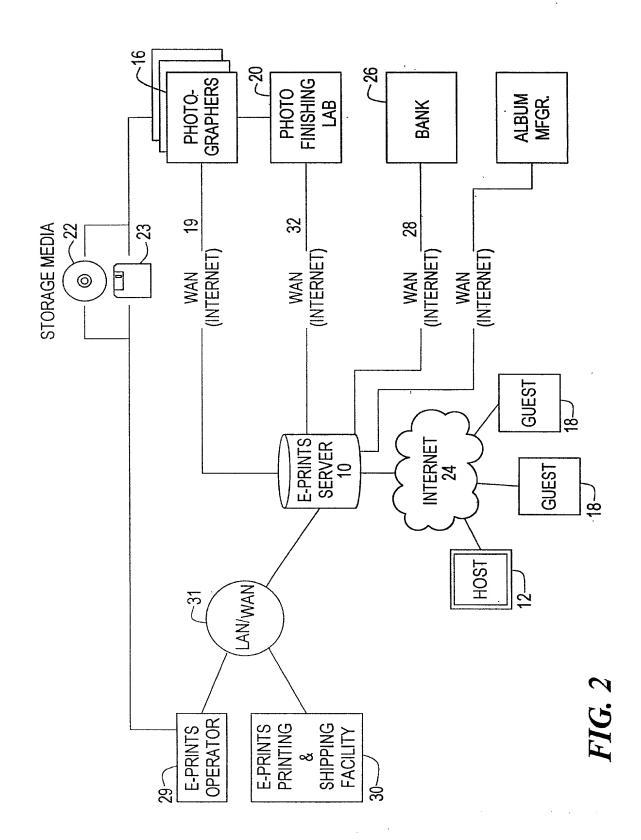
30 3 F

interface access providing means further comprises means for providing access to a customer proofbook adapted to store a subset of said electronic photographic images, wherein said customer proofbook persists between said remote accesses by said customer.

- 25. The computer method of claim 21 wherein said payment verifier access providing means further comprises means for transmitting payment corresponding to production of said hardcopy renditions in response to notification from said financial institution.
- 26. The computer method of claim 21 wherein said image loader access providing means further comprises means for receiving said electronic photographic images from a transmission over a publically accessible network through said communications link.
- 27. The computer method of claim 21 wherein said image loader access providing means further provides means for receiving said electronic photographic images from a non-volatile digital media.
- 28. The computer method of claim 27 wherein said non-volatile digital media is selected from the group consisting of magnetic and optical formats.
- 29. The system as substantially shown and described herein.
- 30. The method of claim 1 further including the step of providing access to stored images for allowing image editing.
- 31. The method of claim 1 wherein said editing step includes one or more of the steps of categorizing, sorting and titling.



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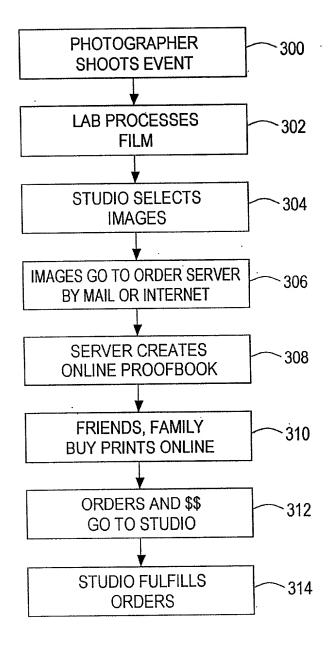
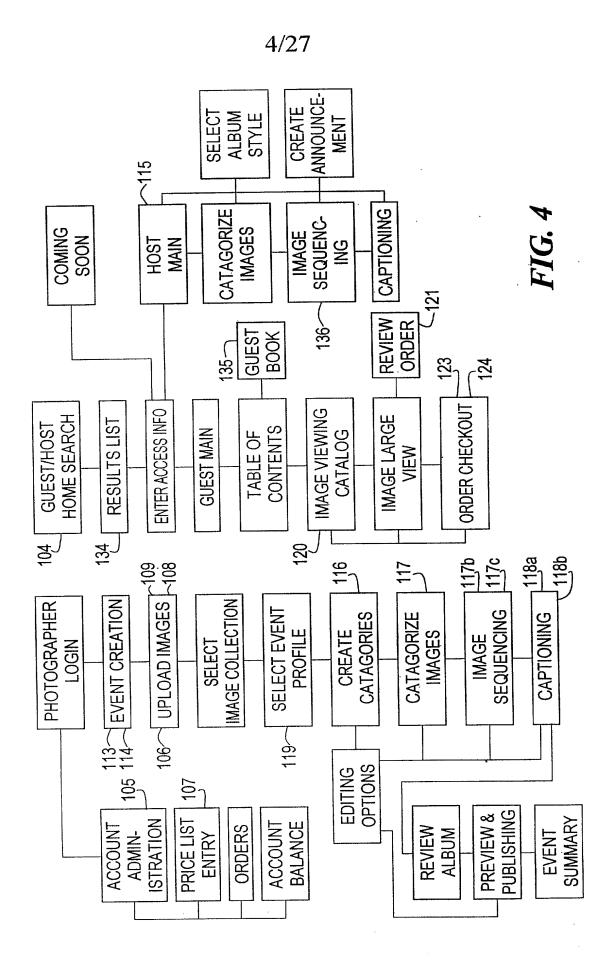


FIG. 3



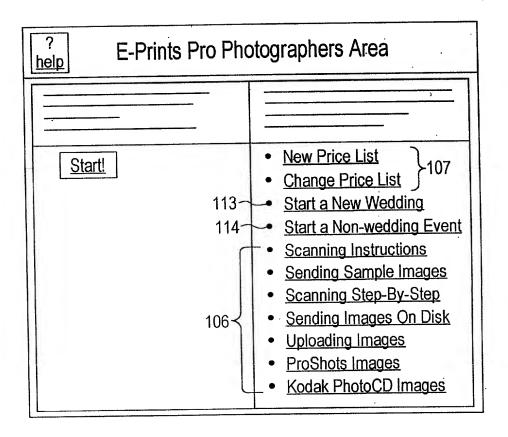


FIG. 5

1. 2. 3. 4. Set up your Send us a Scan your Send us your scanner sample Image images	? <u>H</u> help home	Send Us	Your Images	Back	
	1. Set up your	2. Send us a	3. Scan your	Send us your images	106

FIG. 6

? <u>H</u> help home	Submit Price List	
Your Phone N Photographer Name of price	address:	
Example 1: 5x5 2 Example 2: Wal4 3		finish

FIG. 7

? <u>H</u> help home	Set up y	our Scanner	Back Next
1. Set up your scanner	2. Send us a sample	3. Scan your Image	4. Send us your images
Scanning pri	nts:	108	
Scanning No	egatives:		_
Saving:			_

FIG. 8

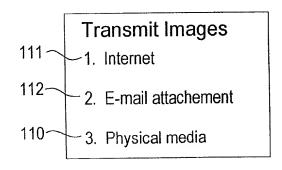


FIG. 9

? <u>H</u> help home	Send us	your images	Back
1. Set up your scanner	2. <u>Send us a</u> <u>sample</u>	3. Scan your Image	4. Send us your images
Sending a Di	sk, Step by Ste	p:	110
			-

FIG. 10

10/27

4. Send us your images

Back Next

? H Send us a sample B	1. 2. 3. 4. Set up your Send us a Scan your Se scanner sample images im	Sending your sample scan:112	Attaching files in different e-mail programs:
? H Preparing the scans Back Next	1. 2. 3. 4. Require. Preparing the Browser ETP upload upload	Making a .zip file (Windows PC users)	Select upload method: • Upload your file with Netscape • Upload your file with your FTP software

? H home Set Up a New Wedding	
Items marked (R) are required. Others are optional	
(R) Your E-mail address:	
(R) Photographer or Studio Name:	
Bride's Name: (R) First: Middle: (R) Last:	
Groom's Name: (R) First: Middle: (R) Last:	
(R) Event Date: mm/dd/yy	
How many sheets of handout cards needed: (10 cards per sheet)	
Username: No Password Password:	
 (R) How are the images being sent? ● On a disk or CD (all media, except floppies, will be returned) ○ Via Browser Upload ○ As Email Attachments ○ By FTP 	
Name of Price Schedule to use: Comments: SENDI	

FIG. 13

? H help home Set Up a New Event				
Items marked (R) are required. Others are optional				
(R) Your E-mail address:				
(R) Photographer or Studio Name:				
(R) Event type: Select One				
(R) Searchable Text:				
(R) Event Title:				
(R) Event Date: mm/dd/yy How many sheets of handout cards needed: (10 cards per sheet)				
Username: No Password Password:				
(R) How are the images being sent?				
Name of Price Schedule to use:				
Comments:				

FIG. 14

? Create Catagories for [event title] To organize the pictures in this album				
Observed 16.	de not went to erecte estagories:			
Automatic Automatic	u do not want to create catagories: Creates numbered catagories (Section 1, etc.) for you to organize the pictures in.			
No Catagories	All pictures will be in one big catagory. With this option you will not be able to set picture sequence!			
Catagory 1Select one	or create your own:			
Catagory 2Select one	or create your own:			
Catagory 3Select one	or create your own:			
Catagory 4Select one	or create your own:			
Catagory 5Select one	or create your own:			
Save Catagorie	S			

FIG. 15

? help Catagorize Pictures						
Select the catagor	Select the catagory into which you'd like to place each picture					
	349 and 10	FIN	nished			
Select all			-171			
· -	on this page in the lect one then	same catagory, click the Finished.	button.			
Select one	Select one	Select one	Select one			
		////				
Select one	Select one	Select one	Select one			
Select one	Select one ♦	Select one	Select one \$			
Select one	Select one	Select one	Select one			
172						

FIG. 16a

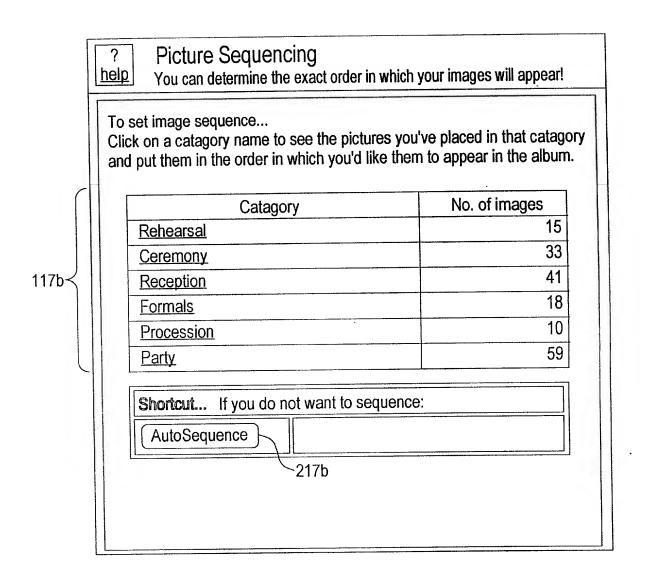
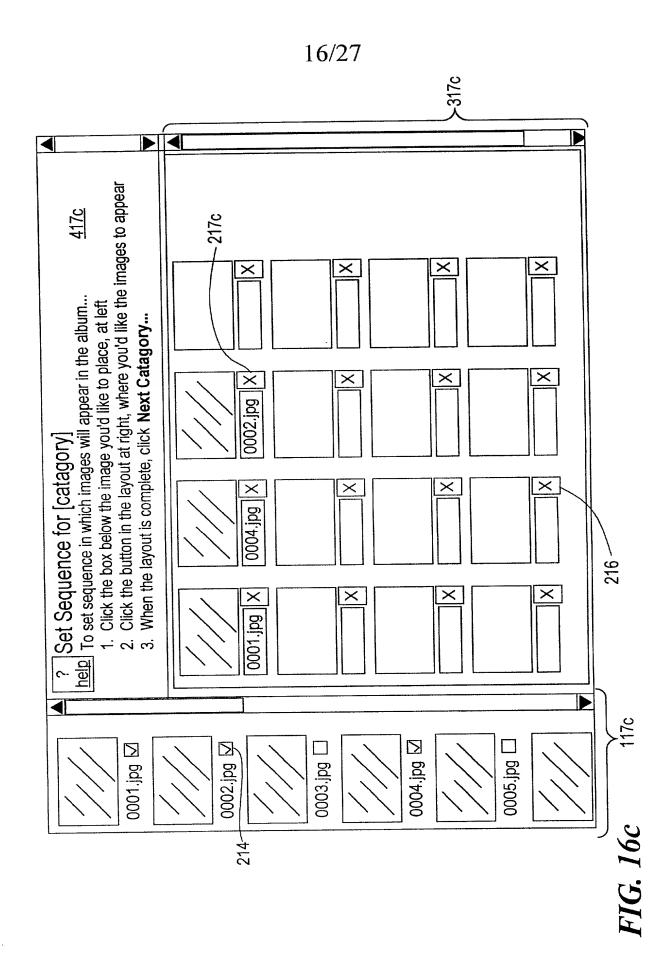


FIG. 16b



? Captioning Menu
To begin creating or editing picture captions Select an album page below:
Shortcut If you do not want to add captions:
No Captions 218a
• Rehearsal Page 1 Page 2
• Ceremony Page 1 Page 2 Page 3
• Reception Page 1 Page 2 Page 3 Page 4
• Formals Page 1 Page 2
• Candids Page 1 Page 2 Page 3

FIG. 17a

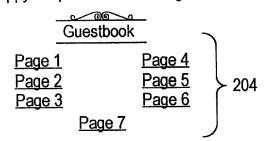
? Captioning	Contents Finished Done captioning
Enter any desired captions in the bla	nks below each picture
Save Captions	
No Changes	-220
Caption all To add the same caption to all pictu caption text here:	
	218
118b	

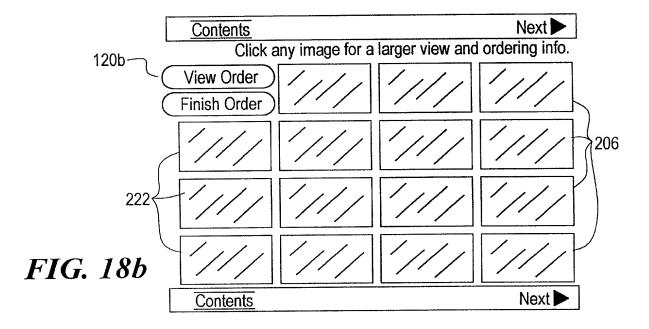
FIG. 17b

Jennifer and Jeff's photos

Click the links below to brows. Or leave a message for the happy couple in their online guestbook.

FIG. 18a





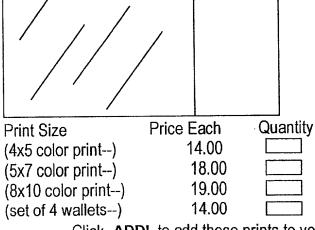


FIG. 18c

Click ADD! to add these prints to your order (ADD!)

Your order so far:

Continue shopping

Click here to go back and select more pictures.

121

Checkout

Click here if you're ready to enter shipping information.

Preview	Item Name	Price Each	Quantity	Item Total
1///	(8x10 color print DEMO ITEM: NO CHARGE)	19.00	1	19.00
1///	(5x7 color print DEMO ITEM: NO CHARGE)	18.00	2	36.00
Shipping 208				6.00
Totals: 3				61.00
If you've changed the quantities above, click for an update total. Update				te

Continue shopping

Click here to go back and select more pictures.

Checkout

Click here if you're ready to enter shipping information.

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Start Over

FIG. 19

Select Personal Album

- 1. Mom & Dad
- 2. Grandma & Grandpa
- 3. Ralph & Alice

FIG. 20

e-prints Checkout	 Check your order Enter bill-to and ship-to addresses Click "Confirm" at the bottom of the page
Return to Catalog	Click here to return to browsing the catalog.

Preview	Item Name	Price Each	Quantity	Item Total
1///	(8x10 color print DEMO ITEM: NO CHARGE)	19.00	1	19.00
///	(5x7 color print DEMO ITEM: NO CHARGE)	18.00	2	36.00
Shipping				6.00
Totals: 3			61.00	
If you've changed the quantities above, click for an update total. Update				

FIG. 21

Billing Address (Where you receive your credit card bills)	Where to send the prints 123 Leave this blank if you would like your prints shipped to the billing address at left.
First Name: Last Name: Street: (more) City:	First Name: Last Name: Street: (more) City:
State Code: Zip Code: Country:	State Code: Zip Code: Country:
Phone:eMail:	210
Credit Card: Tax Region Please choose a tax region ▼	

2 help Welcome, Please log in.	
Please enter your Account number and password Account number:	
Login!	

FIG. 23

e prints	Welcome to
Home	Bride and Groom's album!
Answers	To be notified when the pictures become available, fill in the form below and click Send.
Contact Us!	Your name:
<u> </u>	Your e-mail address: Example: user@host.com Send!
	Photos by: Photography Studio

FIG. 24

	www.e-prin	its .com TM
	COME SEE MICHELL WEDDING PHO	E AND RICHARD'S
FIG. 25	How to view them 1. —————————————————————————————————	USERNAME: ##
	3. —	PASSWORD: @ @

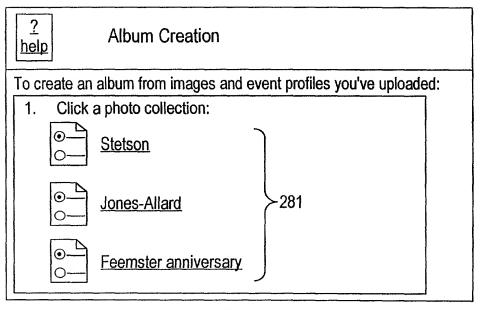


FIG. 26

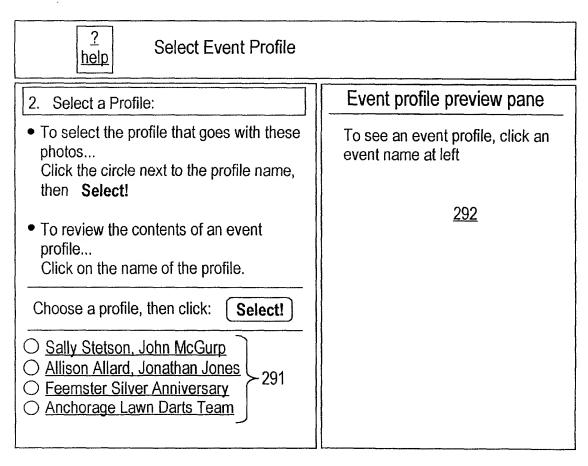


FIG. 27

? help Review Album	Editing Options Return to Editing Options
E prints • Home	Welcome to Jennifer and Jeff's wedding album.
• Answers	1.
Our Story Contact Us!	1
	4.
	-Click here to start!-

FIG. 28a

? help Preview & Publishing

Check your work, and publish!

- <u>Preview the Album</u> See the album you've created.
- Make Changes
 Here's your chance to go back and make changes.
- <u>Publish the Album</u>
 Get a summary, once you confirm, the album will be available for viewing.

FIG. 28b

? help Editing Options

Select an option:

- Add/Edit Picture Captions
 Create captions for the pictures, or change existing captions.
- <u>Change catagorization</u>
 Put pictures in different catagories.

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- Change Sequencing
 Return to the Sequencing screen to make changes.
- <u>View the Album</u> See the album you've created.

FIG. 29

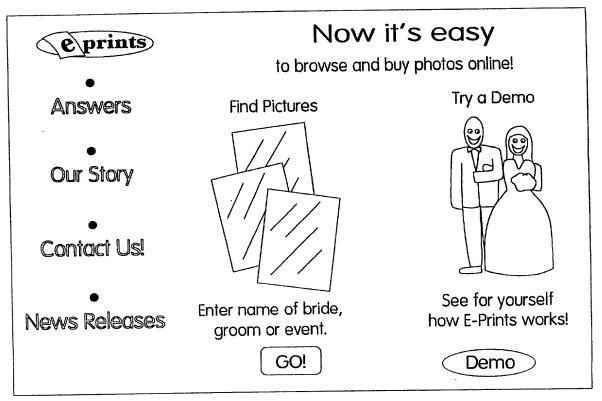


FIG. 31

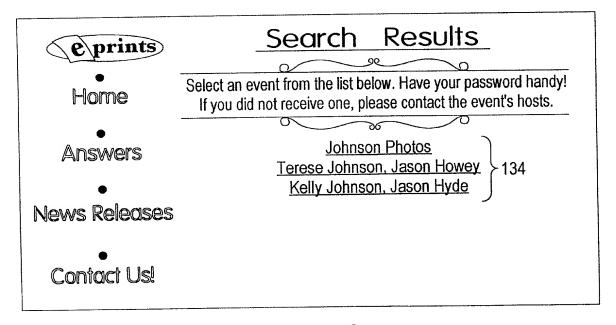


FIG. 32

@prints	• Home	• Answers	• Contact Us!
	Guestb Add a Mes	100k	-
	Add a Mes ⋖ Return to Pi		
135			

FIG. 33

e prints	• Home	• Answers	• Contact Us!
Your Name: E-Mail Address	•]
Message:			
Add your mes	sagel		

FIG. 34

Express Mail Number

EM259610489US

01/2000 FORM 11

Sheet 1 of 3 Attorney

Docket No.: EPRNT-101XX

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below-named inventor, I hereby declars that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name;

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled: NETWORKED COMPUTER SYSTEM FOR VIEWING AND ORDERING PRINTS OF PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN AT AN EVENT

the specification of which (chec	ck one):		¥.x.
[] is attached hereto. [] was	ended onas Apr	olication No (if applicable).	
[X] was filed as PCT Internation and was amended under PCT Artic.	nal Application No. PCT le 19 on	/US98/21955 on O _ (if applicable)	ctober 16, 1998,
I hereby state that I have identified specification, inclusto above.	reviewed and understarding the claims, as am	nd the contents mended by any am	of the above- endment referred
I acknowledge the duty to discled this application in accordance	ose information which cose with Title 37, Code of	is material to t of Federal Regula	he patentability ations \$1.56(a).
t hereby claim foreign priori foreign application(s) for pater identified below any foreign applications of the second control of th	nt or inventor's certif plication for patent or	icate listed bel	ow and have also
Prior Foreign Application(s)	Date Filed	Priority C	laimed
(Number) (Country)	(Day/Month/Year)	. [] Yes	[] No
	,		•
(Number) (Country)	(Day/Month/Year)	() Yes	[] No
I hereby claim the benefit provisional application(s) liste	under Title 35, USC ad below:	\$119(e) of any	United States
60/062,075	10/16/97		
(Application Number)	(Filing Date)		
(Application Number)	(Filing Date)		
(Application Number)	(Filing Date)		
(Application Number)	(Filing Date)		

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Attorney
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I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35 USC §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35 USC §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

(Application No.)	(Filing Date)	(Patented/pending/abandoned)
(Application No.)	(Filing Date)	(Patented/pending/abandoned)
(Application No.)	(Filing Date)	(Patented/pending/abandoned)

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business connected therewith in the Patent and Trademark Office, and to file with the USRO any International Application based thereon.

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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Docket No.: EPRNT-101XX

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